

Fall 8-15-1998

ENG 3009C-004-008: Myth and Culture

Quinn

Eastern Illinois University

Follow this and additional works at: http://thekeep.eiu.edu/english_syllabi_fall1998

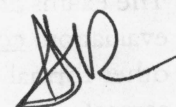


Part of the [English Language and Literature Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Quinn, "ENG 3009C-004-008: Myth and Culture" (1998). *Fall 1998*. 107.
http://thekeep.eiu.edu/english_syllabi_fall1998/107

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the 1998 at The Keep. It has been accepted for inclusion in Fall 1998 by an authorized administrator of The Keep. For more information, please contact tabruns@eiu.edu.



Office 325 CH

Office hours: 11:00-11:50 a.m., 1:00-1:30 p.m. MWF

1. Course Objectives

To learn better the meanings of "myth"; to study and compare mythologies of different cultures; to discover how myth informs cultural values; to explore the differences between myth and science; and, most importantly, to realize more about yourself by better understanding the myths you do and don't live by.

2. Course Content

Popular mythologists such as Joseph Campbell and Alan Watts; philosophical discussion of myth; creation myths (e.g. Genesis); Greek myths (esp. Dionysus, Apollo, Orpheus); Black Orpheus (a Brazilian film, on reserve); Siddhartha (a novel influenced by Buddhism and Taoism); Woman in the Dunes (a Japanese film, on reserve); The Tao te Ching (the Taoist "bible"); selections from Dine Bahane and Black Elk Speaks (Native American mythologies); selections from Wisdom of the Mythtellers (includes references to Native American, Australian, Celtic, and Greek myths); selections from The Swimmer as Hero.

(This content is flexible and can be altered according to the needs/desires of the class. Other texts can be included or substituted.)

3. Writing Requirements

Nine quizzes; unannounced; factual and interpretive questions.

A term paper, 2500-3000 words. Topic: Referring (in at least some detail) to most of the texts we have studied, show what "myths" you do/don't live by, and why your life is/isn't purposeful, is/isn't meaningful.

A journal. At least 1000 words weekly for 13 weeks; at least 3 entries a week; clearly dated; typed or written legibly every-other-line (illegible journals will be graded F). Dreams--your own or others' (if you remember your dreams, they can become a major part of your journal). Detailed interpretive responses to texts (readings and films) both before and after class discussions; but focus especially on (parts of) texts not discussed in class. Connections between texts and personal/social/political experience. The journal, of course, will be "rough" writing (spontaneous thoughts, feelings, memories, and associations recorded without worrying too much about organization or the mechanics of writing). Nevertheless, it should be considered a major work, a treasure. Criteria for evaluation: regularity, fullness, variety, thoughtfulness (originality) concreteness (detailed references to texts). The journal will be due April 27.

4. Grading

The exams and term paper will be graded using a + / - system (e.g. B+, B- etc.). Criteria for evaluation: concreteness (detailed references to texts), clarity of thought and focus, grammar and other formal concerns, proofreading. The grade for the quizzes will be curved at the end of the semester.

5. Final grade

The final grade will be determined by weighing the various requirements as follows:

Quizzes	25%
Term paper	30%
Journal	30%
Class participation	15%

6. Attendance

For every class missed a 500-word paper will be required (see me, for topics).

7. Late papers

Late papers will be accepted if the student has a reasonable excuse. Quizzes, however, can not be made up, unless the absence is officially excused.

8. Students with Disabilities

If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.

9. Since mythologies worship the primordial power and wonder of sex/creation, in this class we will discuss sexually explicit matters. To cite just one (surprising?) example, we'll discuss the scholar John Allegro's point that "The name Jesus/Joshua (the Greek and Hebrew forms) means 'the semen that heals' or 'fructifies,' the god-juice that gives life. To be smeared with this powerful liquid, above all to absorb it into his body, was to bring the worshipper of the 'Jesus' into living communion with God, indeed, to make him divine."

10. Plagiarism

If you cheat, please do me the favor of successfully deceiving me and don't treat me as if I were born yesterday (or born when you were born). Any cheating that I detect will lead to an F in the course for the guilty student.